

NPL Factsheets for Illinois:

**JOHNS-MANVILLE
CORP.**

EPA REGION 5

Lake County

Waukegan, 37 miles north of Chicago

EPA ID# ILD005443544 - Last 10th Congressional District

Update: February 2002

Site Description

The Johns-Manville site is an approximately 150-acre asbestos disposal area. Approximately three million cubic yards of off-specification products and wastewater sludge containing asbestos and, to a lesser degree, lead, chromium, and thiram, were disposed in the eastern area of the 300-acre Johns-Manville property. The disposal area is approximately 25 to 30 feet above grade. The site is located in an industrial area, and the nearest residential area is about ½ mile northwest of the site. The population of Waukegan is 67,500. The site is bordered by Lake Michigan and the Illinois Beach State Park, both of which are used for recreation. Studies conducted at the site indicated that airborne asbestos presented the greatest potential risk. Johns-Manville ceased operations on-site in the summer of 1998. A Record of Decision (ROD) was executed in 1987.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL Listing History: Proposed Date: 12/30/82
Final Date: 09/08/83

Threats and Contaminants

Air sampled in the site vicinity contained asbestos fibers. Groundwater contained asbestos, arsenic, and several volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Waste materials and sludge were contaminated with asbestos, heavy metals, and VOCs. The most significant threat to public health prior to cleanup was the inhalation of asbestos fibers. The site was dusty during dry periods and posed health concerns to the surrounding communities and to the on-site workers. No one ingested the contaminated ground water; however, past levels of asbestos in on-site ground water monitoring wells exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Cleanup Progress

In 1988, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and Manville Corporation entered into a Consent Decree (CD) to conduct the Remedial Design and Remedial Action (RD/RA) at the site. The cleanup activities that were implemented included placement of a 24-inch soil cover, with vegetation, over all dry waste areas, paving of two parking lot areas contaminated with asbestos, resurfacing site roadways with a 24-inch cover, and providing rip rap along all operating wastewater treatment ponds. Construction activities began in November, 1988, and after two enforcement actions, including collection of a \$38,000 stipulated penalty (for late submission of documents) and a \$165,000 civil penalty (for improper grading activities), the RA proceeded smoothly until its completion in August, 1991. Additional work was included in the RA when further contamination was discovered during site clearing activities. Ultimately, approximately three million cubic yards of asbestos-containing waste that was spread over approximately 150 acres was provided with a cover that virtually eliminated the potential for releases of asbestos to the air. The total cost of the RA was approximately \$20,000,000, including the additional work. Currently, Operation and Maintenance (O & M) activities, such as soil cover maintenance and groundwater monitoring continue at

the site. Contingency plans are in place in case the soil cover fails or the groundwater or surface water become contaminated with levels that exceed applicable standards. The first Five-Year review for the site was completed on January 21, 1999.

In 1998, three additional areas, all of which contained asbestos-containing material (ACM) were discovered outside of the Johns-Manville fence line. These areas have been characterized by Johns-Manville and await cleanup. A fourth area was discovered in 2001 and will be included with the cleanup of the other three areas.

U.S. EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences in September 2000, which requires the closure of the former wastewater treatment ponds (put out a service in 1998) by January 1, 2004.

Contacts

Remedial Project Manager

Brad Bradley

(312) 886-4742

bradley.brad@epa.gov

Community Involvement Coordinator

Janet Pope

(312) 353-0628

pope.janet@epa.gov